

## HUD Honors Family After Lead Safe KCK Renovation

Since May 2004, Project LEAD SAFE KCK has had a tremendous impact on improving the health and environment for many residents in Wyandotte County thanks to a great collaborative effort of many partners at the federal, state and local level.

LEAD SAFE KCK functions under a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and works along side community partners in Wyandotte County to identify and remediate lead-based paint hazards in homes and rental units.

Recently, the program was able to partner with several Wyandotte County community organizations and agencies to provide assistance to the Julio Rodas family. The Rodas family (father, mother and three children) had hit a string of terrible luck when it came to their housing situation. They were able to find a house they could call their own, but this house was not a safe and healthy home that most of us experience. It was deteriorated and had many environmental health and safety hazards.

In addition to the lead hazards, the property needed a new furnace (the home had been without heat for almost three years) and ductwork, a new roof, as well as a safe and secure porch. The Rodas family was struggling with this situation and could only do so much on their own. *Project LEAD SAFE KCK* and community partners came to the assistance of the Rodas family toward making their home healthy and environmentally safe.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County's Community Development Program (WCCDP) brought this serious housing situation to KDHE's attention, and in corporation with many partners, a plan was developed. WCCDP replaced the roof; Harvest America donated a new furnace; Moore's Heating and Cooling donated the ductwork and the labor to install the new heating system; Faith Builders, a faith-based organization that provides volunteers to help in times of need, replaced the dangerous porch. *LEAD SAFE KCK* provided the lead hazard remediation work (replaced windows, doors, and scraped and painted all exterior paint) through the HUD grant.



**The Rodas family home before the renovation.**

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This was a tremendous “team” effort made by all of these partners. It was a great demonstration of what can be accomplished when the community comes together to rally round a family in need and is an illustration of community and government success.

Because of this incredible community collaboration, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County’s Community Development Program declared the Rodas family the “Homeowner of the Year” in Wyandotte County. HUD became aware of this successful collaboration through a KDHE quarterly grant report. On June 6, HUD recognized the Rodas family as ‘First-Time Homebuyers’ by having Nelson Bregon, General Deputy Assistant Secretary of HUD during a visit to their home.

Bregon congratulated the Rodas family and acknowledged the efforts of all the community partners who came together to help transform a decrepit building into a beautiful family home. On June 20, the KDHE Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program presented the Wyandotte County Community Development Program with a ‘Lead Star Award’ for their collaborative work in this project, and KDHE Secretary Roderick L. Bremby recognized the Rodas family with a congratulatory letter.



**The Rodas family home after the renovation.**